



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**COMMISSIONERS APPROVE RESOLUTION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF  
SOUTHPOINT PLACE APARTMENTS FOR THE DISABLED**

On Tuesday, Franklin County Commissioners approved a resolution awarding a funding agreement with the Community Housing Network Inc. (CHN). The resolution grants \$500,000 for the development of a vacant site located at 4079 Southpoint Boulevard with permanent supportive rental apartments for people disabled by mental illness, chemical dependency, or histories of homelessness. CHN has a partnership with Amethyst Inc. a company that focuses on addictions and emphasizes the role that poverty plays in perpetuating drug and alcohol use.

Southpoint Place Apartments will include two developments: a new building with 40 studio apartments and a new apartment complex with 40 units for families. CHN will also manage the units once built, providing direct services and service links to the tenants. The property is located near the intersection of Obetz and High, across the street from the Franklin County Jobs and Family Services South Community Opportunity Center.

“Housing projects like this can really help people in our community,” said Commission President Mary Jo Kilroy. “Southpoint will connect more families with stable housing and Amethyst will provide counseling and other support. Together they will provide an environment conducive to recovery, by creating a “non-using” community. I am proud that the county is investing in this project.”

The 40-unit efficiency building for individuals includes tenant amenities such as a fitness room, computer learning center, staff offices, tenant and service provider meeting space, a common kitchen, laundry areas, and a controlled entrance and reception area. The other 40 units are townhouses designed for families with two-, three-, and four-bedroom units.

“This is a great project for our children,” stated Commissioner Paula Brooks. “I am proud of the work that the Columbus Housing Network has done to match mothers in our community who need help, with organizations like Amethyst to assist these moms in staying healthy and keeping their children in their homes healthy, too.”

Southpoint Place Apartments will offer tenants supportive services to enable them to find work, maintain their treatment and recovery, and eventually give back to the community. CHN will provide 24-hour staffing and on-site supportive services, including links to case management and counseling, as well as individual and group activities designed both to address individual needs and to strengthen the tenant community. CHN will also provide a Vocational Specialist to connect tenants to vocational opportunities.

“This is a wonderful community project!” said Commissioner Marilyn Brown. “I am especially happy to know that the local schools are involved with project planners so that every child who lives in this new community will feel more comfortable as they enter the classroom from the beginning of the school year.”

CHN anticipates beginning construction in summer 2007 and completing it in winter 2008.